

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW**

ISSUED BY THE

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

8 - 11 FEBRUARY 1964  
~~TOP SECRET~~

11 February 1964

1. Guantanamo: [redacted] the possibility of military preparedness measures in Oriente Province.

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[redacted]

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2. Cuba-USSR: [redacted] Soviet ship to bring arms to Cuba this year [redacted]. It is carrying some MIG-15s and a couple of MIG-21s in crates on deck, [redacted]

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3. South Vietnam: Khanh's new government has inherited a bad situation. Viet Cong activity continues to grow.

Throughout the entire country, they are mounting small-scale attacks and acts of sabotage. Strategic hamlets are still falling to them with little or no resistance.

(Cont'd)

There has also been a marked step-up in terrorist bombing, much of it aimed specifically against US personnel.

The Communist drive, coupled with uncertainty generated by the latest changeover in Saigon, is undoubtedly affecting the morale of the people, the paramilitary forces, and possibly regular troops as well.

Reports from several critical provinces near Saigon indicate little real government progress and some further deterioration since the last Viet Cong offensive in late 1963.

[redacted] military officials in these provinces [redacted] regard the coup as merely a continuing power struggle in Saigon, [redacted]

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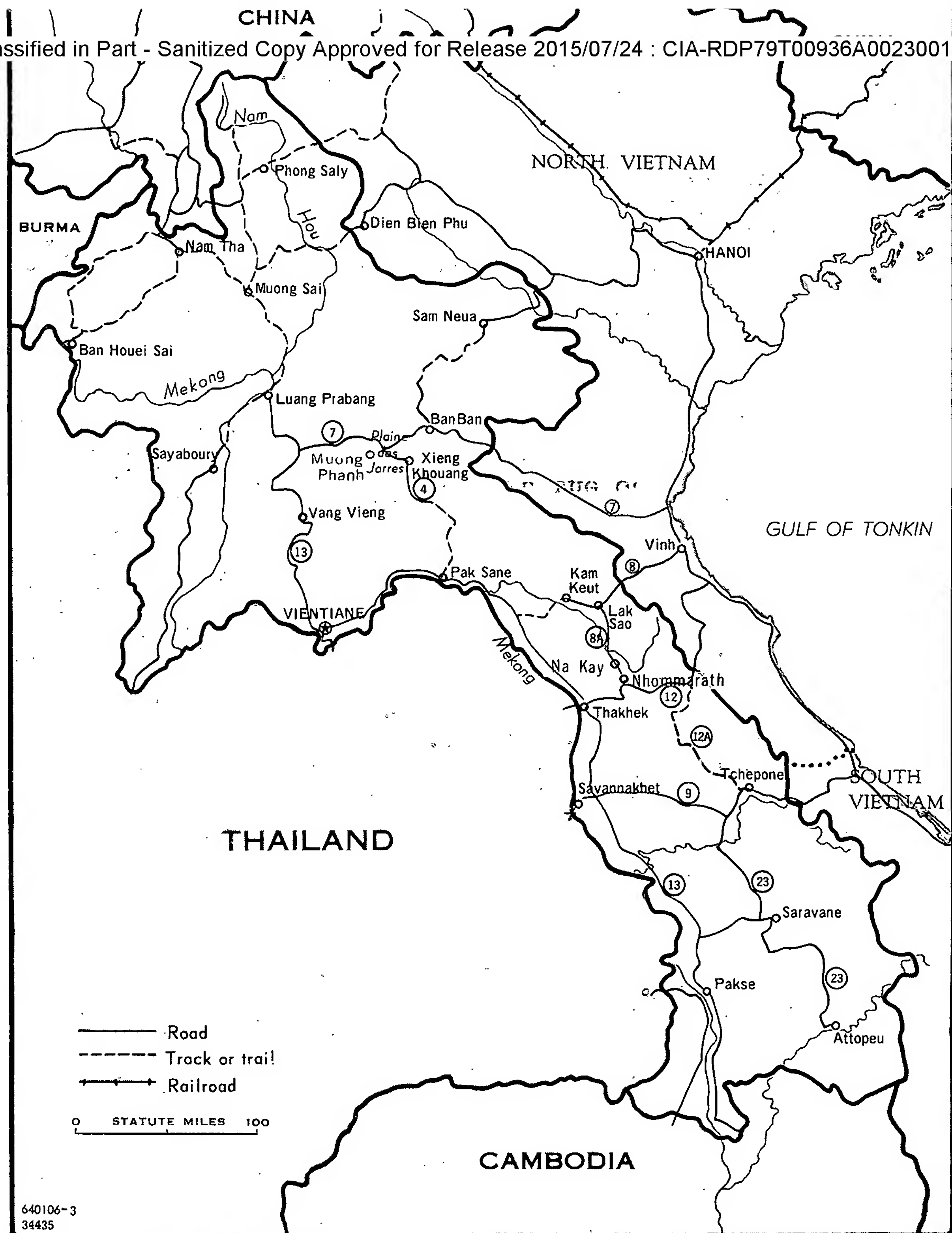
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Thus, Khanh has his hands full. A spark plug himself, he has also put together a more broadly based government, but [redacted] is still far from clear that he will be able to rally the populace and halt the Viet Cong momentum.

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4. Laos: Communist forces are taking a more threatening stance. In skirmishes around Xieng Khouang town in the Plaine des Jarres, Pathet Lao garrison troops have moved against Lao Army and neutralist forces occupying nearby ridge positions. They have also shelled Kong Le's headquarters at Muong Phan.

(Cont'd)



In central Laos, the Communist advance toward Route 13 has halted in the last week, but the enemy forces, which we think include at least three North Vietnamese battalions, can seize Thakhek any time they want to.

The use of North Vietnamese on this scale suggests the weight Hanoi is currently putting on keeping the supply routes to South Vietnam open.

The Pathet Lao, as might be expected, continue to oppose International Control Commission investigation of the recent fighting east of Thakhek.

5. Cyprus: There has been no improvement in the situation on the island itself; if anything it is getting worse. The clashes which took place yesterday were as bad as any since the cease-fire came into effect in December.

Much of the trouble is in the outlying areas where Turkish Cypriots, fearful of the Greek Cypriots surrounding them, continue to group together in more preponderantly Turkish sectors.

The Greek Cypriots see this movement as an effort to achieve de facto partition, and some of their attacks are designed to stop this trend. The situation is made worse by the fact that the police and paramilitary groups are coming under the control of radical elements who spare no effort to get at the Turks. Their activity is quickly and luridly reported in the Turkish press, further arousing passions there.

(Cont'd)

At the same time our embassy in Athens reports the emotional fervor also growing in Greece and affecting people in all walks of life.

The Greek Cypriots seem bent on taking their case to the Security Council where the Soviets can play the situation to their best possible advantage. The Greek Government agrees that it would be a bad idea for Makarios to do this before the composition of a peacekeeping force is decided. Athens claims to have Makarios' agreement not to make his move until after Sunday's election in Greece.

The Turks are against putting the dispute to the Security Council. They see this action as a Makarios ploy to predjudice Turkish treaty rights to intervene on Cyprus.

We have, in the meantime, seen no change in the alert status or the deployment of either Greek or Turkish forces.

6. Israel - Arab States: The Israelis are reported ready to begin testing at least one of three pumps they will use to divert Jordan River water from Lake Tiberias.

When they do, the Arabs will be faced for the first time with actual diversion of water rather than with the preliminary construction that has gone on so far.

We have had no indication of extraordinary activity on the Syrian side to date, although the Israelis say Syria attempted to shoot down one of their aircraft over Israeli territory Monday.



7. India: The Communists' chances of returning to power in the South Indian State of Kerala have improved lately as a result of growing factionalism in the anti-Communist forces and scandal in the ruling Congress Party.

The Communists ran Kerala from 1957 to 1959, their first and as yet only taste of power in India.

Nehru maneuvered them out when they tried to force through a Communist-style education system.

8. Maphilindo Talks: The three-way ministerial talks in Bangkok adjourned yesterday having made no discernible progress.

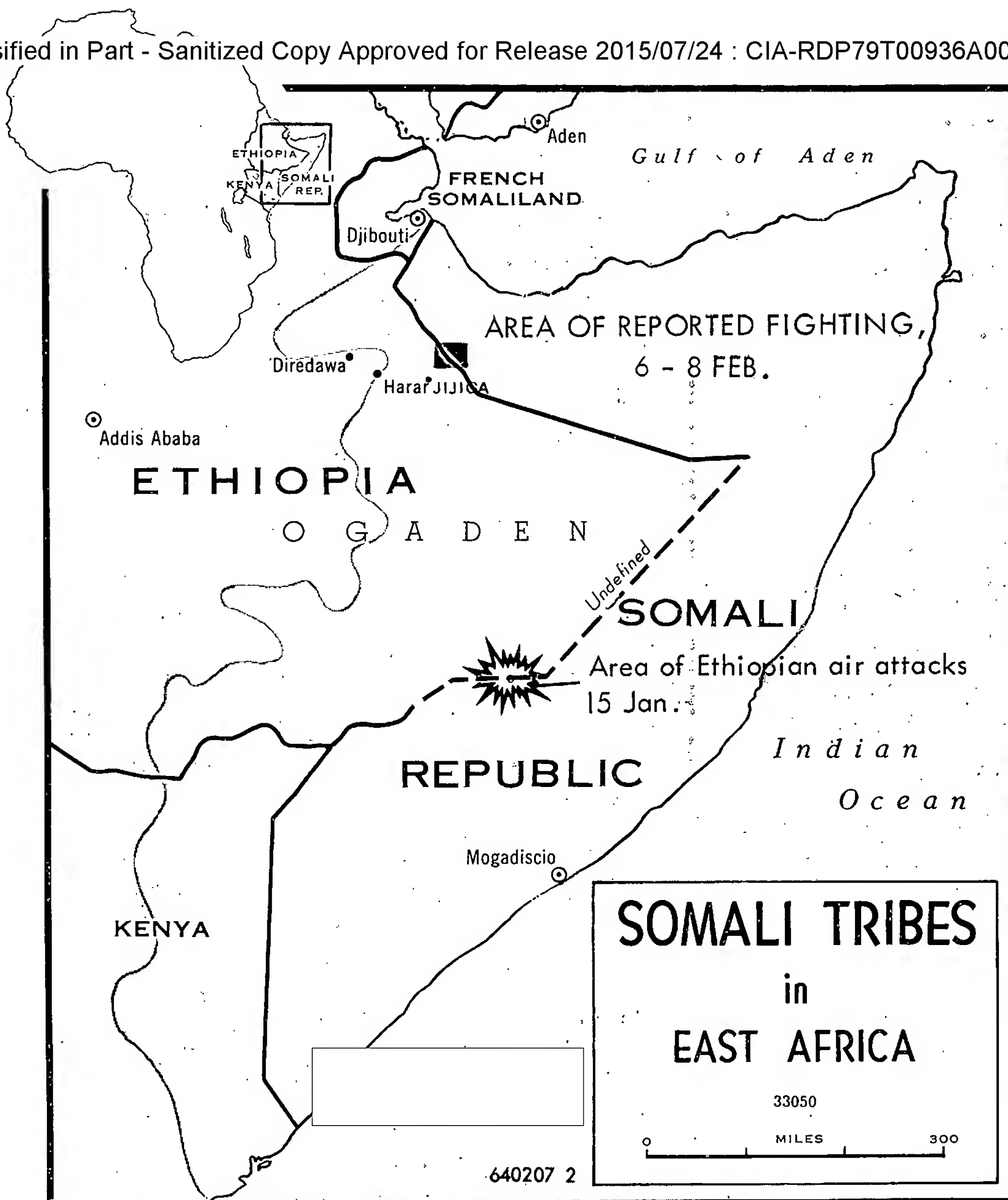
The ministers did agree to continue the cease-fire and to meet again, probably later this month. But Indonesia has refused to pull its guerrillas out of Malaysian territory.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Tunku Rahman is in Phnom Penh for talks with Macapagal, who afterward will go to Djakarta for talks with Sukarno.

The Malaysian-Indonesian border area and Malaysian Borneo have been relatively quiet during the past week. Neither side has reported any serious clashes or cease-fire violations.

9. France-China: The French, as they said they would, have provoked a break in relations with Taipei.

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They chose to deliver the news orally rather than in writing, but in so doing betrayed their embarrassment at having been forced to submit to Peiping's will.

Taipei's response took the form of a formal note making it clear that in Taipei's view France had taken the initiative. The Nationalist's public statement failed to get this message across clearly.

10. Somalia-Ethiopia: There has been another flare-up between Somali and Ethiopian troops in the troubled Ogaden region.

it looks like local Ethiopian forces, which have felt frustrated by their inability to deal with Somali guerrillas, struck sharply at a Somali police post and let the Somalis see an Ethiopian jet or two.

The fighting has died down, but armed forces are still face to face and the situation could get out of hand.

Both Mogadiscio and Addis Ababa would like to hold the temperature down. The problem is on the agenda of the Organization for African Unity meeting, which is opening in Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday.

The Somalis had been talking about appealing to the UN, but will be under pressure from other Africans at Dar-es-Salaam to keep the matter in African hands.

Khrushchev has issued a moderate appeal to both sides to settle the dispute peacefully.

11. Congo (Brazzaville): The rioting in Brazzaville last Friday by tribal supporters of former President Youlou was suppressed fairly quickly by the armed forces.

President Massamba-Debat charged immediately afterward that "certain embassies" were supporting "counterrevolutionary" activities. Several incidents since then suggest that US representatives have been marked as a particular target of hostility.

The whole affair has probably improved the power position of army commander Mountsaka. It is also likely to strengthen the regime's leftist labor and youth leaders.

12. Panama: Carnival weekend passed without serious anti-American incident. The Panamanian guard easily deflected the small student march into the Zone.

Capital is still leaving the country

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